

Conservation Security Program

Concho Watershed



Texas Fact Sheet | April 2008

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers who are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

"CSP rewards farmers and ranchers that are already making conservation choices for their operations," said Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state conservationist for Texas. "The program gives us the means to compensate producers for the beautiful landscapes and healthy natural resources we all enjoy in Texas while encouraging others to make improvements to their lands."

Watershed Approach

Due to restraints on both program and technical assistance funding, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis. Focusing on high priority watersheds will allow NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program was implemented nationwide.

Priority watersheds were selected based on the following criteria:

- wide variety of land uses and input intensities
- high-priority resource issues to be addressed
- history of good land stewardship
- availability of technical tools and staff

CSP Sign-up

The 2008 Conservation Security Program sign-up for the Concho watershed in west central Texas is April 18 through May 16. CSP will be offered in 51 watersheds nationwide covering more than 24 million acres. The

Concho watershed encompasses more than 795,000 acres in Coke, Concho, Menard, Runnels, Schleicher, and Tom Green counties. Of these acres, 269,600 are cropland, 45,400 are irrigated, 9,500 are pasture, 448,200 are rangeland, and 22,400 is water.

The process for applying for CSP is as follows:

1. Access the National CSP Self-Assessment Workbook, either online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/> or by picking up a copy at a local USDA Service Center. Using the workbook, producers will:

- determine whether they meet the basic eligibility requirements,
- document their stewardship work to date, and
- document conservation treatments undertaken on the farm or ranch.

2. Meet with NRCS personnel to go over any additional documentation needed.

Once this information is complete, NRCS will determine the appropriate level and enrollment category for which you qualify. Subsequently, NRCS will select the categories to be funded for CSP contracts.

For More Information

To learn more about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center. You can also find more detailed information about the watershed and the program on the NRCS website at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>. Interested agricultural producers in the Concho watershed should contact the NRCS office located in their county. Remember, the key to CSP is providing records of your conservation stewardship, so have those records handy.

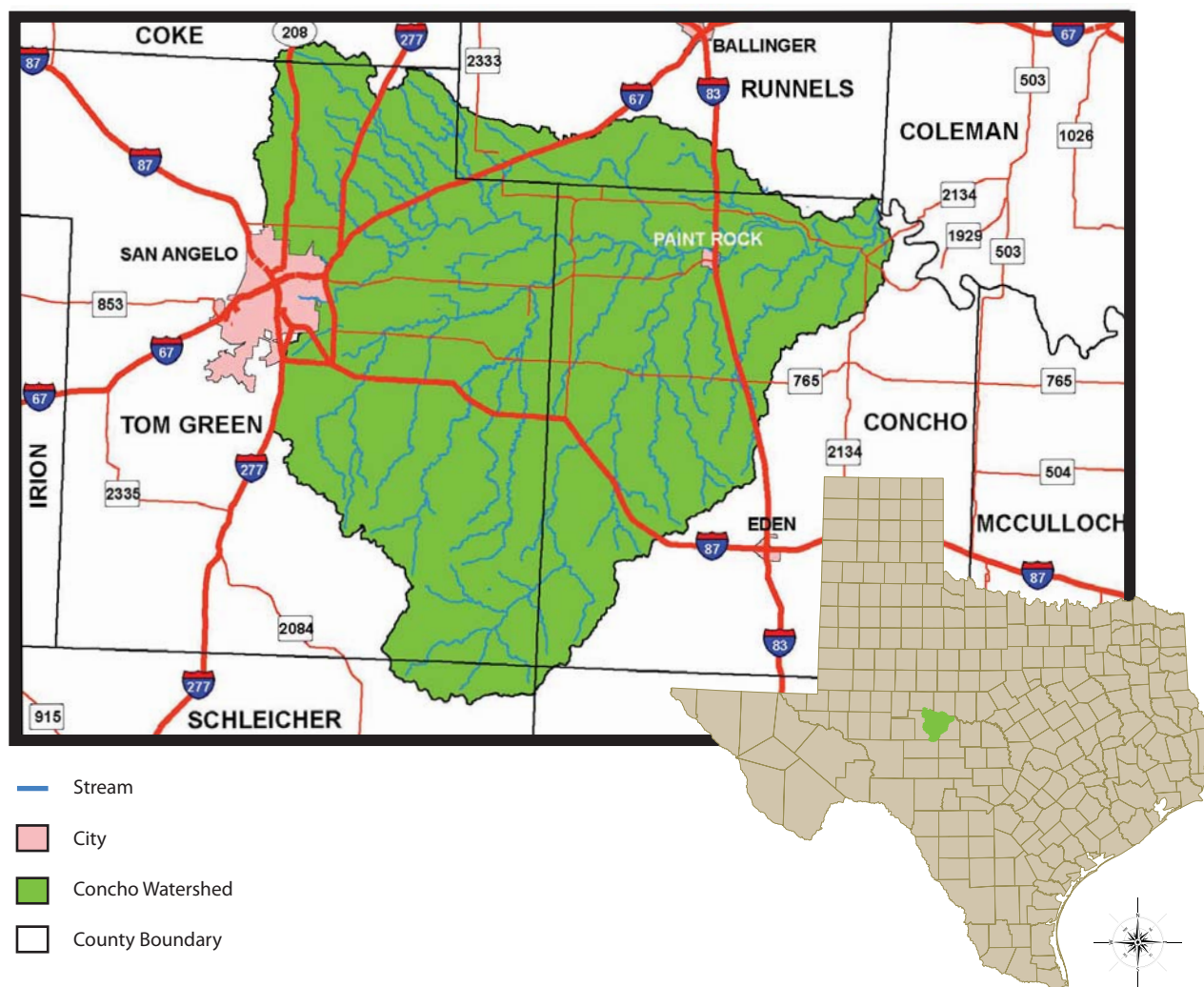
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Contacts

County	Town	NRCS Conservationist	E-Mail Address	Phone Number
Runnels	Ballinger	Kathy Saunders, Concho CSP watershed manager	kathy.saunders@tx.usda.gov	325.365.3415 Ext. 3
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Concho	Eden	Brad Teplicek	brad.teplicek@tx.usda.gov	325.869.4021 Ext. 3
Menard	Menard	Chris Casady	chris.casady@tx.usda.gov	325.396.4708 Ext. 3
Schleicher	Eldorado	Vaden Aldridge	vaden.aldridge@tx.usda.gov	325.853.2720 Ext. 3
Tom Green	San Angelo	Ron Crumley	ron.crumley@tx.usda.gov	325.655.3521 Ext. 3

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